



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Driver charged with attempted murder after trying to strike officers with car

Howard County police have charged an Ellicott City man with attempted murder after he tried to strike two police officers last night with his car.

Anthony Howard, 50, of the 3100 block of Burgess Mill Way, is charged with two counts each of first- and second-degree attempted murder, first-degree attempted assault, and second-degree assault. He is also charged with threatening in writing to burn down a structure.

Investigators have determined that Howard went to the residence on Burgess Mill Way, from which he had recently moved, to make contact with family members who still live in the townhouse. He was in possession of a garage door opener and used it to open the garage. Residents called 911 for assistance just after 10:30 p.m.

Detectives have learned that Howard was sending threatening text messages to a family member, indicating his intent to burn down the house and crash his car into the garage. He also told the family member that he was suicidal and to call the police.

Officers arrived and found Howard sitting in a Honda Accord with the car running in the parking lot of the townhouse, facing the garage of the home. Police directed Howard to exit the vehicle. He refused and accelerated out of the parking spot directly at two officers who were outside their vehicles. The officers fired, striking the vehicle. Howard stopped just prior to hitting the officers. Neither Howard nor the officers were injured. Howard was arrested and police found a can of gasoline inside the car that he had taken from the residence's garage.

Howard is currently in the booking process at the Howard County Detention Center.

The officers, one a 15-year veteran and the other a 10-year veteran of the police department, have been placed on routine administrative leave, which is standard procedure following a shooting incident. Their names are expected to be available for release later today.

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